

RESEARCH IN ENDOCRINOLOGY—August A. Werner, M.D., Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, St. Louis University School of Medicine; edited by Al R. Schmidt, City Editor, Belleville Daily Advocate, Belleville, Illinois. A. A. Werner, M.D., 403 Humboldt Bldg., St. Louis, Mo., 1952.

As stated in the foreword by Paul Reinert, president of St. Louis University, this book represents a partial record of Dr. Werner's activity in scientific medicine and as a physician. In this scientific autobiography we are given the life history of Dr. Werner, his family background, and early education. Nine of his major research problems are set forth in brief abstracts, comprising the hypo-ovarian syndrome; climacteric psychosis; the male climacteric; the effect of theelin injections on castrate women; the production of endometrial growth in castrate women, the minimum dosage of theelin that is required; effective clinical dosages of theelin in oil, based on the study of 16 castrate women; a survey of estrogenic dosage on the premenstrual endometrium; effect of gonadotropic extract on the anterior pituitary in cryptorchidism; growth in children with mongolism. The statement of the basic problem is then followed by a corresponding brief summary of how the problem was attacked, and finally each one of these problems is represented again as the original reprint bound into one volume.

For the most part the scientific material is now either part of textbooks or else it is outdated. Consequently, this book will be of no help to the student or practitioner as a source of reference, but it does stand as a monument to an able, early, pioneering endocrinologist and a devoted physician.

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TEXTBOOK OF OPHTHALMOLOGY—Volume V—The Ocular Adnexa—Sir Stewart Duke-Elder, Surgeon Oculist to the King, Knight of Grace, Order of St. John, Consulting Ophthalmologic Surgeon to the British Army and Royal Air Force, Director of Research, Institute of Ophthalmology, University College, London. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1952. 1083 pages, 1181 illustrations, 32 in color, \$22.50.

The volume is composed of 1083 pages divided into sections. These parts deal with (1) developmental anomalies, (2) diseases of the lids, (3) diseases of the lacrymal apparatus, (4) diseases of the orbit, (5) diseases of the peri-orbital regions. This book, like his previous books, is carefully documented with an extensive and authoritative bibliography. This has been so carefully done that his books are encyclopedias.

The multiplicity of anomalies and diseases described in the book are rarely seen except by a composite group of ophthalmologists.

To review this book in detail would involve too much space. Suffice it to say that this, like the preceding volumes, is a must for ophthalmologists' shelves. It is a dictionary for ophthalmology, including disease found in all parts of the world.

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A METHOD OF ANATOMY—Descriptive and Deductive—5th Edition—J. C. Boileau Grant, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Professor of Anatomy in the University of Toronto, The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1952. 870 pages, \$7.00.

This is the fifth edition of a well-received textbook on anatomy, and it continues to deserve its previous widespread acceptance. It considers the human body by regions, and emphasizes the predominant features of each region. This gives the book a much more practical significance since it enables the correlation of anatomy with clinical problems. The illustrations are line drawings, but clear and quite well done, and bring out the features discussed in the text. Much useful new information has been added to this book,

consisting essentially of data that would be useful to the practicing physician. For example, reference is made to radiograms of the wrist as a guide to skeletal age, to nerve supply of various joints, to the segmental anatomy of the lung, and to the mechanisms of swallowing. This book can still be recommended as a concise exposition of practical anatomy for both students of anatomy and the practicing physician.

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THE WHITE PLAGUE—Tuberculosis, Man and Society. Rene and Jean Dubos. Little, Brown and Co., New York, 1952. \$4.00.

The history, past, present and future, of tuberculosis, the greatest enemy of the human race, is presented vividly and authoritatively by veterans in the war against it. The effect of tuberculosis on many of its famous victims, the development of man's knowledge of its diagnosis and its origin, the evaluation of therapeutic measures and of other factors affecting its control, are described with enthusiasm tempered with scientific caution. Thus the conclusion that "tuberculosis mortality slowly decreased during the latter part of the 17th century . . . and began to increase again around 1730 . . . and reached a maximum in England and America at the end of the 18th and during the first part of the 19th century" is balanced by the admission that "it is not easy to evaluate the prevalence of the disease from a study of written documents," and by citation of figures showing that the changes referred to were merely relatively small differences, in the continuously enormous mortality, from one tenth to one fifth of all persons dying of tuberculosis in most of the data recorded. Although "historical and epidemiological evidence supports the clinical view that the individual's nutritional state is of paramount importance in tuberculosis," it is emphasized again that "suggestive as they are, these correlations are not entirely convincing." Nevertheless, it is maintained, with little attempt at verification, that "Some mismanagement of the human machine must occur before the bacilli succeed in gaining a permanent foothold and in causing extensive ravages."

A critical discussion of vaccination against tuberculosis leaves its practical value still unsettled, but praises BCG as a "symbol of those generous impulses which help to create a better world." The need for more case finding efforts is stressed by pointing out that "some 30 per cent of the individuals who die of tuberculosis . . . are not reported as tuberculous during life." Despite the "extremely thin evidence" upon which the theory of epidemic waves is based, and recognition that "the downward trend did not begin exactly at the same time . . . in all the different countries," the authors insist that "tuberculosis began to decrease long before any special measures had been instituted against the disease." But "cycles are determined by natural causes and some of these can be altered by human intervention," so they discuss alleged changes in virulence in the organism and in hereditary predisposition or acquired immunity, but do not stress the institutional segregation which Newsholme and Frost pointed to as determining the decrease both of tuberculosis and of leprosy. It is pointed out, however, that "only those communities which have carried out systematic and sustained antituberculosis campaigns have come close to eradicating the disease."

Appendices graphically presenting the salient facts regarding tuberculosis trends in relationship to pneumonia, industrialization, war, age, sex and race, and a stimulating bibliography and commentary in the form of notes which are, in many places, even more fascinating than the text itself, with an index including hundreds of the names which have made up tuberculosis history, completes this valuable contribution to the literature of the white plague.